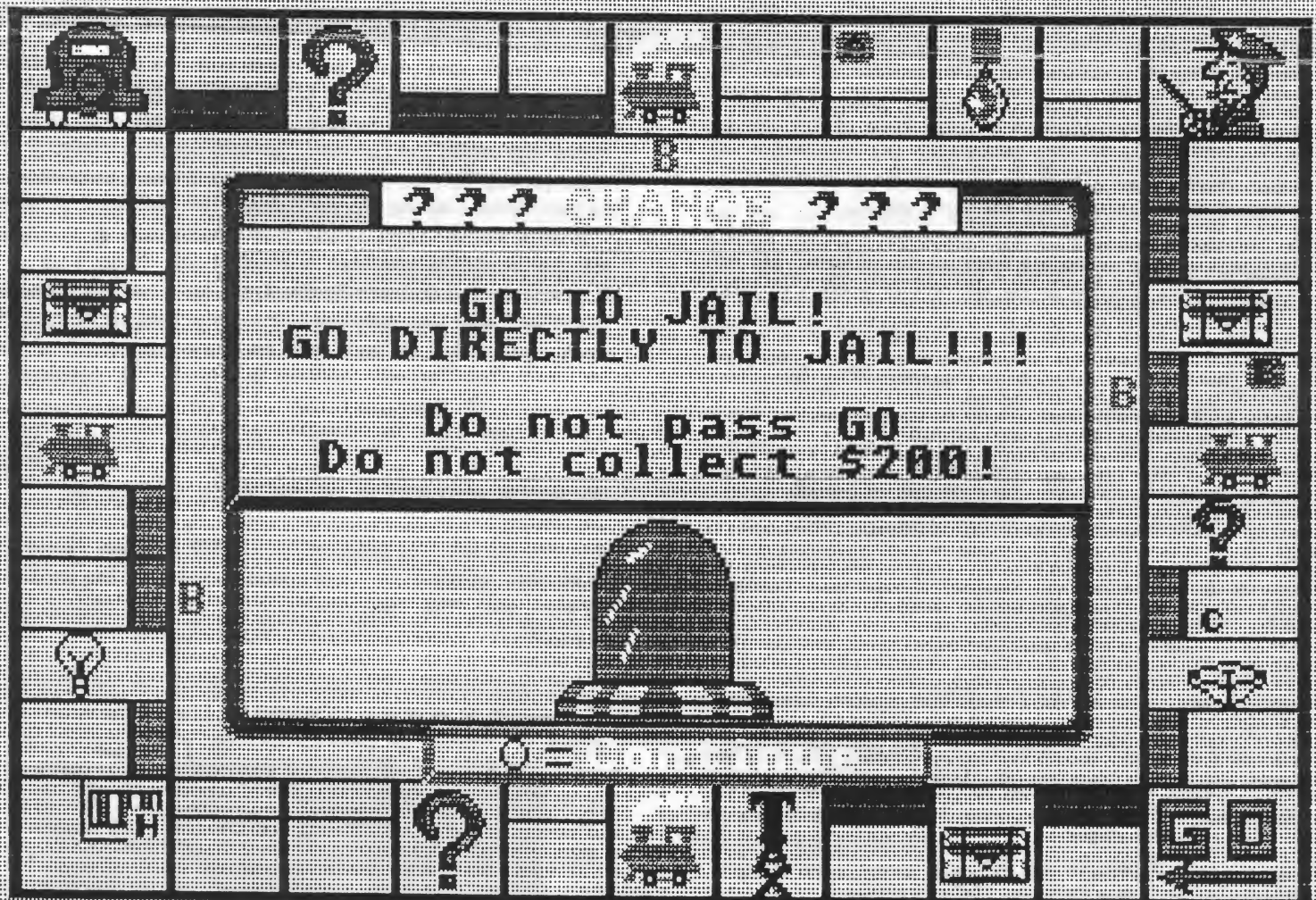


# TWIN CITIES ATARI INTEREST GROUP

Monopoly by David Addison



## TAIG Membership Application

NEW\_\_\_ RENEWAL\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members to be included: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

What computer do you own? \_\_\_\_\_

What are computing interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are \$15 per family, per year. Please make checks payable to the Twin Cities Atari Interest Group. Please do not mail cash.

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Opinions expressed within are those of the authors, and not necessarily the opinions of the officers or members of TAIG.

President: Steve Ingalsbe (452-7196)  
Vice President: Tom Green  
Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
Secretary: Paul Franson  
Newsletter Editor: Cory Johnson (473-4190)  
Membership Chairman: Nathan Block (922-8012)

Taig BBS 612/522-2687

### Membership Renewal

You may renew your membership at any TAIG meeting, or send a check for \$15.00 (made out to "TAIG"), and the completed membership form (above) to:

Nathan Block  
2656 Georgia Ave. South  
St. Louis Park, Mn. 55426

### Newsletter Exchange & Article Submission

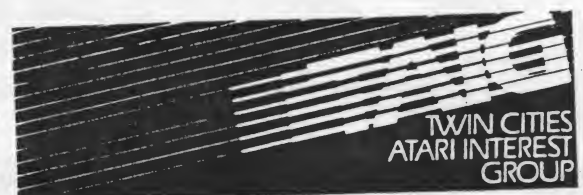
If you represent another Atari Users Group that wishes to exchange newsletters, please mail a copy of your newsletter to Cory Johnson at the address below.

Articles should be submitted in standard text files, such as Atariwriter, Hometext or Speedscript. Or, send written or typed text (make any diagrams or schematics legible also, we can't reprint what we can't read) to:

Cory Johnson  
1835 Shadyview Circle  
Plymouth, Mn. 55447

Any storage media will be returned at the next meeting.

Articles may also be uploaded to the BBS. Please leave a short description in the FIS system, and label the article as such when the BBS prompts you. The BBS Number is 612/522-2687



I've been trying to explain to my wife, convince my wife, that there are some things that make being a computer jockey worth while. Last month's TAIG D.O.M. "Wheel Of Fortune" was the medium I needed.

My wife and I both like to watch the t.v. version of W.O.F, but when that's over, I usually head for the computer station upstairs. Sound familiar, I thought so! She could care less about bits or bytes, but she has always liked puzzles and word games. When the W.O.F. game was available on disk I jumped at it. I booted it up and crossed my fingers. I figured she would have one of two statements after playing it, " Hey, this is ok ",or " Big deal". What happened?, This happened.

The introductory screen comes up on the monitor. I don't know, I thought to myself. I could tell the kindergarden graphics didn't impress her.

Then the game screen came up. Hey, there's no Wheel! There's no resemblance of a wheel! Just a bunch of numbers with a red line that moves over them. Oh no, Vanna's a stick man! Could have just as well left her off if he was going to make her a stick man!

Well, as long as it's booted up let's give it a try. I pushed start and we started to solve the puzzles. My wife laid me to waste money wise. Mission accomplished, as much as I hated to loose, We had alot of fun, and my wife found the game very user friendly. We also found the game to play exactly like the real game. With plenty of data files for puzzles. We play about a half hour a night now and enjoy it.

Except for the graphics, We find Wheel Of Fortune to be a fine program. Well worth the D.O.M. fee. And more important, I find my bride upgrading her view of my computer from widowmaker, to a tolerable machine.

P.S. She still thinks it takes up to much room in the bedroom !

#### On the Cover

The picture on the cover was dumped from Monopoly by David Addison, which was last months ST game disk of the month. If you are artistically inclined we would be interested in seeing your ideas for the cover. We can accept Degas and Neo-Chrome files from you ST owners, or Microillustrator files from you 8-bit owners. Just because we are a computer club doesn't mean all pictures have to be computer related or generated. Thanks again for your support.

This month I will continue explaining the commands available from the Main Menu. Starting with F.

F-Files available. The BBS will ask if you want to see specific categories of files, or All files. You can stack the command for the type of files you want to be shown, for example F;G will show you all games available, F;A will show you all files available. The BBS will then search it's file directory and show all programs that fit in the category you selected. You will be shown the filename, the language the program is in, the type of program, and the length of the file. If there are more than 14 files in the category you selected, you will have the choice of Downloading a file, going to the Next page, or returning to the Main menu. This selection menu will appear after each page of filenames. If you just want to go to the next page, you don't have to enter N, you can just hit return. After all files in the selected category have been shown you will have the choice of going to the Main menu, or downloading a file. Users with high access will be shown the access level of each file also.

G-Survey System. After selecting G from the main menu, the BBS loads in all the survey data, this takes about 1-2 seconds, after the data is loaded, the BBS doesn't have to go to the drive again, until you Exit the survey. If you don't make ANY changes in the survey, the BBS will not have to resave to disk, if you vote or add or delete a survey, the BBS will have to re-write the data to disk, this again will take only 2-3 seconds. When you first go into the survey system you will be shown the current surveys names, and the corresponding number, if there are less than 8 surveys, you will have the option of adding a survey. At this point you can : 1) Goto a survey by entering the number of the survey, 2) Add a survey by entering A (If there are less than 8 surveys), or 3) Exit by entering E, this will bring you back to the main menu.

If you choose to enter a survey, you will be shown, the number of the survey, the name of the survey, the date it was started, the name of the person who started it, the question that the survey asks, the choices you can vote for with the current vote totals. From here you will have the option to : 1) Vote for a choice by entering the number of the choice you want to vote for, 2) Adding a choice (If there are currently less then 10 choices), 3) Delete the survey (If you started it or if you have HIGH access), and 4) Quit which will bring you back to the main survey menu.

After you vote for a choice, the survey will be redisplayed, showing that your vote has been added. If you add a choice, the BBS will ask for the new choice (Limit 10 characters), after adding it, the survey will be redisplayed, showing that the choice has been added. If you choose to delete the survey, the BBS will confirm the decision and delete it.

From the main survey menu if you choose to add a survey, you will first be asked for the name of the survey, then you



have two lines to pose the question of the survey, if it only takes one line, just press return at the beginning of the second line. The BBS will then have you enter the choices you want included in the survey, it will display an index number, after the number enter the choice, or a Q to quit. You will then be asked if everything is okay, if not press N and type it all back in again. Try to spell everything correctly and make it look as neat as possible. After entering all the text needed and telling the BBS everything is okay, you will be brought back to the main survey menu, and you will see that your survey has been added.

H-Help system. You will be shown the help files available, choose the command you need help with and the BBS will locate the files for those commands and send them to you.

J-DigiPictures. In order to use this function you HAVE to have the proper software. You will need either VMODEM, which is the Hayes compatible program, or DIGI1030 for the 1030 and XM301 modems. After choosing J from the main menu, you will be shown a list of the pictures available, enter the number of the picture you want to see. The BBS will load the picture into it's buffer and say 'Picture file ready', you then go to your terminal programs main menu, if you have DIGI1030 choose G for get picture and the away you go. If you have VMODEM you choose R for Receive Xmodem, when it asks for the filespec, enter S: and hit return, the picture will then be sent. After the entire picture is sent, you get rid of the picture by pressing any key. You will be at the BBS's main command prompt.

K-Kill a message, you have to be in the message base where the message you want to delete is, and you have to know the number of the message. After entering the message number, you will be shown the header for that message, and you will then have to confirm that you want to erase it.

L-User database. This is an area for posting messages concerning upcoming events, or advertising for something you want to sell, buy or trade. Or anything that you want all the users to see. After choosing L you will be shown all the current entries, and the BBS will ask if you want to add a bulletin. If you answer Yes, you will be asked for the subject, and then you enter up to four lines of text. The BBS will display a >, you begin entering the text, when you finish the first line,, hit return, the BBS will again display the >, if you are finished entering text, you hit return at the beginning of a line. The BBS will accept up to four lines, and then ask if the text is okay, if not tell it No, and you can re-enter the text. If you answer Yes, the bulletin will be saved.

M-Message to SysOp, only Remote SysOps have access to this function. You are put into the message editor, you enter your message, when you Save the message, it is printed on the BBS's printer, or sent to the SYSTEM HISTORY file.

O-Log Off. When you choose this you will be asked to confirm the fact that you want to leave. Answering no will return you to the main menu. Yes will log you off. You will be

shown the amount of time you were on the system and the BBS will disconnect you.

P-User Profile. You will be shown your current status on the BBS, basically this is everything that is kept in your password file. After displaying your status, the BBS will ask if you want to change your profile. From here you can change your password, your terminal configuration. You can also toggle the time display, when the time display is ON you are shown the amount of time you have been on the BBS and the time you have left on the BBS. This is mainly for Long Distance callers, so they are always aware of the time they have spent on Long Distance.

You can also toggle the FAST READ MODE, which if ON causes the BBS not to pause between messages. See more on this in the R command explanation (Future article).

That is it for another installment. Stay tuned for more articles.

Notes from the Membership Chairman  
By Nathan Block

Faithful members!

Don't forget my new membership policy! I'm still getting unmarked applications!! Please save us both some time and mark your sheets! Also, get your renewals in! There are a lot of people who I haven't seen checks from and if I don't get them soon their names go off the roster. I don't want to sound like a tyrant but I don't make the rules I follow them! Steve and Tom tell me what to do and I jump (don't! Tom....Steve????). Please send those in real soon.

Continued on page 6.

### COME IN FOR DEMONSTRATION

*SATURDAY APRIL 25 AT 1:00 P.M.  
AND REPEATED AGAIN AT 3:30 P.M.*

THE ATARI AND THE MIDI WILL BE DEMOED SHOWING THE LATEST IN MIDI SOFTWARE. PHIL SEIFERT WILL CONDUCT THE DEMO AND IS OFFERING A SPECIAL COUPON TO ALL WHO ATTEND. THE COUPON IS GOOD FOR AN EXTRA 10% OFF ANY SINGLE SOFTWARE PACKAGE IN STOCK.

ATARI 1040ST RGB ON SALE \$999.95

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559-4690

Hours:

Mon - Thr 11 AM - 7 PM  
Fri - Sat 11 AM - 5:30 PM

The following interview was conducted on March 30th 1987, with Mike Gustafson of ICD, makers of the U.S. Doubler, SpartaDos, P:R Connection and many other fine products for Atari computers.

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TAIG: Can you tell me how ICD got started?

ICD: I don't know if you know it, but I used to be a member of TAIG. I started out with Spartan software about 4-5 years ago. Tom Harker became one of our biggest distributors; his company MightyByte and Spartan Software merged and became ICD. There were three of us at that time, and our first product was the U.S. Doubler. That led to all of the products we have now.

TAIG: So when you started out you had 3 employees, how many people do you employ at this time?

ICD: 15.

TAIG: Do you plan to expand into other computer markets, such as the ST, or any other brands?

ICD: Yes, we have an ST hard drive adapter and a full hard drive system coming out in about a month and a half, the adapter board, which will have a clock on it, should be released slightly before that. The adapter will support up to eight drives and will daisy chain on the DMA port. We will also be doing drives for the MacIntosh and the 8-bit Atari. We also have some upcoming projects of a more generic nature that I cannot discuss at this time.

TAIG: Do you have any new products specifically for the 8 bits that you can discuss?

ICD: We do have a couple things coming out real soon. We have a SpartaDos Toolkit that adds some extra commands to the existing versions of SpartaDos.

TAIG: Is the toolkit for the disk version or for the cartridge based SpartaDos?

ICD: It's for the disk version, and will be called SpartaDos 4. We also have out the MIO and a hard disk backup utility called FlashBack is on the way. FlashBack will backup hard drive and MIO ramdisk files and allow you to split up large files.

TAIG: Would the Toolkit give you the same commands that will be available with the cartridge version of SpartaDos without having to buy the cartridge?

ICD: No, it is not intended to be a replacement for the cartridge, it gives you a few extra commands, like directory sort, and something that will allow you to rebuild your diskette if you've destroyed a file or lost a directory. Also a utility that allows you to configure the MIO from

floppies. SpartaDos 4 also has a few new features, such as changing defaults and changing the append slightly so it will be a little more compatible.

TAIG: What is the approximate cost of SpartaDos 4?

ICD: It will reasonably priced. We are offering it at a special price through our newsletter, that's where we are making the official announcement, where it will be \$19.95. It is not really considered an upgrade, we will still be shipping the current version of SpartaDos.

TAIG: When will the SpartaDos X cartridge be available?

ICD: Well, we've said two months now for awhile and now it looks like it will really be two months now. Keith Ledbetter is now working for us, so we're throwing a little more force at it.

TAIG: Keith Ledbetter has written some excellent telecommunications software, which leads me to the next question concerning add-on products to the MIO. Are you working on a product to allow more than one modem to be controlled by the MIO?

ICD: That's kinda hard to say. We're not planning on modifying the MIO so you can have more than one modem on it, however, we are working on a product that would give you in essence that type of thing. It is one of the more generic products that I mentioned earlier. We are not really sure on the BBS software that will support more than one user at a time.

TAIG: That is something that TAIG is really interested in, we hope to hear more about that in the near future. Are the MIO's being shipped at this time?

ICD: Yes, the MIO has been available since November of last year, although there is a backlog on orders at this time. We almost caught up about three weeks ago, and then the reviews in ANTIC and ANALOG hit.

TAIG: There has been some confusion about the MIO and whether it replaces the hard disk controller. We have understood that it does NOT replace the controller, can you clarify?

ICD: No, it is not a controller, it should be considered a host adapter.

TAIG: What is the limit it can handle as far as hard drive capabilities?

ICD: That really depends on the controller. The controller will typically handle approximately 100 meg per hard drive. The MIO allows up to 16 meg per logical drive. So if you have eight hard drives connected to the MIO you would have a limit of 128 Megabytes.

TAIG: What is the current price for your drives?

ICD: The 20 meg is \$649.00 and the largest, dual 30 meg is sold for \$1195.00. We also have a 10 megabyte drive for \$499.00 and a 5 megabyte drive for \$349.00.

TAIG: Is the optional 80 column adapter for the MIO available at this time?

ICD: Not yet. We are beta testing it right now, it needs a few minor changes, but that should be done in about three weeks or so. It will be offered as an upgrade that we do.

TAIG: So you would have to send the MIO back to have the 80 column adapter installed?

ICD: Yes.

TAIG: Does the 80 column adapter replace the existing screen editor? For example could PaperClip be used with the adapter?

ICD: No, because Paperclip is setup for 40 columns, anything that works through E: will work fine. If a program, such as PaperClip, does not use the CIO it will not be displayed in 80 columns. Something that I failed to mention earlier, is that ICD will be releasing BBS Express! for the ST in about two weeks.

TAIG: I'd like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk to us.

Residents Notes, April 1987  
Steve Ingalsbe

I hope everyone has had as good of a month as I have. April is one of the best months in Minnesota (in my opinion). The weather is getting nicer, there is signs of life outside. Well, I guess we should get on with business.

I want to thank Ray Douglas for coming to our last meeting (March 29) and giving a real nice talk all about The Twin Cities Computer Network (TCCN), and his contribution to the local computer and BBS scene. If you have a modem, give TCCN a try. I think that you will like it.

I also want to thank Mike Gustafson of ICD, for the fine interview that you will find in this issue. ICD is one of the strongest third party supporters for the Atari, and we are real glad to have them. They make a full line of products for the 8-bit Atari systems, and if you are in the market for hardware, you should check their products out. I personally own a PIRI Connection, US Doubler, and SpartaDOS, so I have quite a lot of confidence in their products.

Remember that this month is the elections! It looks like it is going to be a close race, so be sure to come out and vote. If you want to run for an office, just let us know, so we can add your name to the ballot. So far the candidates are:

President: Steven Ingalsbe  
Vice-President: Tom Green  
Treasurer: Cory Johnson  
Secretary: Paul Franson

Hmmmm.... I wonder who will win each category? Come to the next meeting and find out!

We have two new volunteers this month! Chuck Grimsby has agreed to take over the production and selling of 8-bit disks of the month (DOMs). We still need everyone to give us copies of any new Public Domain programs that they write or obtain a copy of. The second volunteer is Ken Modeen, who will be lining up the Demo's for our meetings. Thanks to both guys, and remember that you get free memberships for as long as you keep these positions. It is just our way of saying THANKS for helping out with some of the work.

Along those same lines, Harry Montanye and Ken Modeen both get free DOM's this month for the newsletter articles that they wrote. It is really nice to see people chipping in and helping out. I am sure that most of the members get tired of reading things written by me, Tom, and Cory. I enjoy reading other peoples opinion about things. If you have a peice of software or hardware that you love or hate, write an article about it. You could help someone else out with your experiences. Also, to those of you who have ST machines, I need your help. I don't own an ST, and so my ST news at the meetings is skimpy. If you have ST news, bring it to me at the meetings, and I will read it to the group. I really want to help out all of the new users, but you have to help me. You may think to yourself, "I don't know anything about my computer, thats why I'm here!", but if everybody gives me one small tidbit that they picked up, then we will have alot of information. That is what a users group is all about, we all learn together. Try and make it to the next meeting, you will enjoy it. I enjoy meeting everyone, but forgive me if I didn't have too much time to spend with you. I am normally swamped with questions, plus I have to conduct the meeting. See you there!

Our new members are listed below. I hope you will find them and get to know them better! We all need your support and we are happy to have you with us! Welcome to the following:  
Darryl Tuttle, Henry Katzmarek, Lorne Budnick, Joseph Schwarz, Julie Johnson, Janet Kieber and the whole Shakopee High School!!, Ken Wong, Lawrence Haus, Terry Sauderman, Carl Maki, Mary Lowe, Jeff Gottstein, Randy Lee, Steve Sundheimer, Harry Montanye, Karla Davis, Randy Vold, Earl Vance, Ron Christenson, Greg Peasley, Doug Walter, Jim Hecker, Steve Smith, Dale Erickson, Steve Peiher, Brian Reynolds (OUR OFFICIAL USER FRIENDLY REPRESENTATIVE!!), Lloyd Montanye, Randy Johnson.

Quite A list huh?? Some of these are a bit late and I appologize. But I am trying to give them a royal welcome. If you don't have a membership card call me 922-8012. You need one to vote this month!!! Well, see you all later!



## Minutes of the March 29, 1987 TAIG Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 by President Steve Ingalsbe. Elections will be held at next month's meeting. Nominees for the four elected offices are as follows:

President	- Steve Ingalsbe
Vice President	- Tom Green
Treasurer	- Cory Johnson
Secretary	- Paul Franson

Nominations will also be open at the April meeting prior to balloting. Since the voting is open only to TAIG members, you will have to bring your membership card to the April meeting in order to vote. If you don't have a membership card, contact Nathan Block before the meeting.

Steve and Tom also indicated that they will no longer be responsible for getting the DOMs out and coordinating demos every month. Their duties will be limited to President and Vice President respectively, and they will be sysops for the BBS. As a result, volunteers are needed to fill the following positions: eight bit demo coordination, ST DOM, ST demos, and ST chairman. Chuck Grimsby has volunteered to take over the eight bit DOM. Anyone who volunteers for any of these duties will have their membership extended free of charge for the number of months in which they fulfill the duties of the position.

It was moved that TAIG give away a three month non-voting membership to anyone who buys an Atari computer system at any of the local Atari retailers. The motion was seconded and passed by a show of hands. Steve will arrange details with the local vendors to make purchasers aware of this offer.

TAIG will again be ordering 5 1/4 inch floppy disks. If you would like to order some, see Steve. Pricing is ten dollars for 25 disks.

On the eight bit DOM this month, we have Wheel of Fortune, the ever popular game show comes to your computer (and wait until you see Vanna). The ST DOM features a mini MIDI sequencer and a Ramdisk copy program.

The long awaited index of eight bit DOMs is finally complete. If you want to order a DOM from a previous month, see Chuck Grimsby to peruse the list. Programs from past DOMs will NOT be mixed and matched, so if you only want two programs from old disks and they aren't on the same disk, you will have to buy both. Prices are four dollars for single sided disks and six dollars for double sided.

6ENie is offering free initiation to all Atari owners through the end of the year. This is an eighteen dollar value. Connect time is billed at five dollars per hour for 300 or 1200 baud access. To sign up, set your modem program for half duplex, then dial 1-800-638-8369 when connected, type HHH then carriage return. At the U# prompt, type XJM11957,6ENIE then carriage return. Connect time can be

billed either to a credit card number, or your checking account. Once on line, you will be given a local access telephone number to use.

Unofficially, SPACE has decided to stop sharing the BBS with TAIG, and will start their own BBS. Steve has not gotten official word from the officers of SPACE on this yet, however.

Information concerning software vendors is available for members to browse through. If there is more than one copy of something that is of interest to you, feel free to take one home. If there is only one copy, please leave it so other members will have an opportunity to see what is available.

The remainder of the meeting was consumed by our guest speaker, Ray Douglas, formerly of the Computerline BBS and radio show. Ray spoke about his new association with the Twin Cities Computer Network, a local multiport BBS, running on a Honeywell minicomputer. Anyone interested in joining the TCCN BBS can do so on line by first setting their terminal program to seven bits data, one stop bit, even parity, then dialing 349-6200. At the USERID prompt, type TCCN followed by return. At the PASSWORD prompt, type GUEST. All typed entries must be in capital letters. One of the main menu choices is for New User Registration, choose this option and answer all the questions to get validated.

Ninja

Reviewed by Harry Montanye

I have purchased NINJA by Mastertronic. I think this game has good graphics and excellent use of colors in the background. Also the game player can do quite a lot of things with his or her screen counter part. They can duck,punch. kick,jump kick,pick up and throw stars and daggers. You are also able to slash with a sword.

The object of the game is to fight your way up to the top level to rescue Princess DIDI. YOU must collect 6 Idols along your way. The Idols do two things,they renew your strength and power,Also they open the secret chamber where the princess is kept. Along the way through the various levels you must fight different opponents of different strength and skill levels. Also you fight from 1 to 5 opponents at a time.

I find this game Changelling, sometimes frustrating,and very addicting. Friends and family members who have played NINJA have also enjoyed the game. It has been played by people from age 8 on up with no difficulty. My self as of this time have not reached the top level,But i have come close.

I reccomend this game to anyone who enjoys good action games,and the price is very easy to take. And now back to the game!

## HOW TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

By Tom Green.

I don't know. Not more than a year ago I found myself being the Vice-President of this user group. I hadn't written anything since high school (10 years ago), except for the occasional shopping list, check, or work order for my job. When I became Vice President of this FINE organization, I found myself in the position of having to come up with something to write about. Not that I HAD to, it's just that it would be hard for me to tell people that they should write articles for the newsletter if I never did. It was probably easier for me since I was running the BBS and could usually find a topic to write about. What if you can't think of a topic? Well, here are a few suggestions :

1) Review a piece of software. Probably the easiest of them all, the software doesn't have to be the newest thing on the market, it doesn't even have to BE on the market, review something in the public domain. Turbo-Basic. Express! Telecommunication software. SpeedScript. TextPro. FUJIBOINK! The software doesn't matter.

2) Tell of an experience you've had with your computer, good or bad. When did you buy your first computer, how much did you pay for it. Tell of the first time something totally unexpected happened while using the computer (Lightning, trashed disks, soda in the keyboard...). Who in your family uses the computer, what do they do with it, what do YOU do with it. Did you work with computers before you bought yours? Do you program? In what language? Tell us of your first telecommunication experience.

3) Write an article explaining ways in which you think the user group could be improved. Write an article complaining about something the group does that you disagree with, the officers and appointed officials will not know your opinions on how things should be done, unless you tell them. Write an article letting the officers or appointed officials know how you feel they are doing.

4) Write a humorous article. There is a lot of humor in the world of computing. How many MacIntosh Hardware Designers does it take to screw in a light bulb. 1, he/she just holds the bulb while the world revolves around him/her. So it wasn't really funny, at least I found an example of computing humor.

5) How did you make your first million dollars, and can I have some of it, I need it for an ailing computer widow.

6) Skip 5. Too personal. Review a review, review a magazine, hopefully a computer (or at least high-tech) magazine. What have you seen, read, heard concerning computing, like a News/Rumors sort of article.

7) Skip the first part of 6 if you REALLY made a million dollars. What kind of disks do you use. How well do they work? Do the labels or write protect tabs fall off? If you use 3-1/2 inch disks and your write protect tabs fall off, I

would definately switch manufacturers. What kind of printer do you use? What kind of paper do you use in the printer? Do you end up ripping pages in two because the papers micro-perf is so small sodium atoms will not pass through them, and are the first and last tractor holes on each page bigger than the others, which causes your Epson RX-80 to jam up and rip the edges to shreds, and you end up printing 23 pages of Uni-Term documentation on one line while you are out of the room? Is that what's troubling ya bunky. Memorex paper. Only 977 sheets left to go. Product information, that's what #7 boils down to. What works for you? Which software companies do you trust the most?

8) ANYTHING CONCERNING ANYTHING HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU AND YOUR COMPUTER! OR A FRIENDS COMPUTER. OR SOMEONE YOU USED TO KNOW'S COMPUTER. ANYTHING, ANYTHING, ANYTHING.

So there are just a few ideas on topics. Ok, not you have thought of a topic, what do you do from there? Get out the word processor, if you don't have a word processor you can write it from DOS, just tell your DOS that you want to Copy from E: to D:FILENAME. If you don't like doing it that way, type it in with basic, using REM's. Such as :

```
10 REM MY REVIEW OF 'COMPUTER FISHING' BY TAIG MEMBER
20 REM Computer Fishing is a GREAT program, you can
30 REM catch walleyes, bass, eel pout, and even...
```

You then LIST this file to disk, don't SAVE it. Cory can do wonders with an article submitted in the above form.

What if I spell a word wrong, or make grammatical or puncutational errors? What if. None of us are professional writers, at least none that I'm aware of, and if one of us is a professional writer they BETTER submit an article. You just do the best you can. If you want to take the time to look a word up in a dictionary, GREAT. If not, tough, it doesn't matter. This isn't the Congressional Record, we are not entombing the newsletters so your great grand children can read them. It is just us, the same people you see at every meeting.

Now you've written the article, using a word processor, DOS, or BASIC. What do you do with it? Revise it, it looks like crap! Of course that was computational humor. Actually you can upload it to the BBS, send it to Cory, who's address is on this newsletter, or bring it to the meeting and give it to Cory, Steve, or me. We will return the disk to you, or give you a DOM in return.

Cory does a very fine job with what he is supplied. I don't think being in the user group just means showing up at the meeting and buying a DOM. There is more to it, and we should all try to make the user group better for having us as members. I know this has been said time and again, but I think we should all just keep saying it until something is done about it. YOU are the User Group. Half an hour ago there was one less article for the newsletter. If I can do it, anyone can.



The Chessmaster 2000  
(for the 520 ST)  
by David Stengel

It claims itself to be "The finest chess program in the world," and they may just be correct. It is the best by far among the vast array of chess programs on the market.

A lot of research and programming went into this game. For example there are one hundred classic games starting with Greco in 1620 to Chessmaster 2000 vs. Sargon III in 1986 (both running on IBM PCs and at level 2). You may go through these games step by step analyzing these moves (which I advise considering the Chessmaster uses moves from these games as reference).

You have quite a few options to choose from, which you may obtain by using the mouse, or control keys:

- o Begin New Game: Resets the board and a new game is started.

- o Opponent: You may the Chessmaster, play another opponent, or watch the Chessmaster play itself.

- o Play Level: You have twelve levels to choose from; level one plays 60 moves in 5 minutes, while level 12 plays one move in 6000 minutes.

- o Sides: White or black.

- o Easy Mode On/Off: prevents the computer from thinking ahead before making a move.

- o Newcomer Style On/Off: This disables the Easy Mode and the Play Level option. In this style, the Chessmaster plays it's worse game.

- o Style Of Play: In normal mode, the Chessmaster chooses a mix of random and best moves. In Coffeehouse mode, it's more random moves. And Best mode always chooses the best option.

- o Opening Book On/Off: Toggles the book of 71,000 historically proven opening moves.

- o Force Computer To Move: Interrupts the Chessmaster's train of thought and forces it to make the best move found at that moment.

- o Take Back Last Move: Just what it says.

- o Replay Last Move: If you took back one or more moves, then it will replay these moves.

- o 2D/3D Board Toggle: Excelent graphics on both.

- o Board Coordinates On/Off

- o Chess Clocks On/Off: Shows players name, elapsed time, and the last two moves made.

- o Rotate The Board: Quarter turn, or half-turn.

- o Change Piece Colours: Use the the Control Panel Colour changer to make the pieces and board any colour you wish.

- o Change Square Colours: Using the same method, you may change the balck and white square colours.

- o Choose Chess Set: You may choose either wooden or metal pieces.

There are over 25 more options available, so you understand the power in this chess program. It plays a mean

game, or relatively tame depending on what you're looking for. All in all, I'd think it be fair to say that you are getting MORE than your money's worth with this program. With that in mind, I'll leave you to go try and find it. Hint: don't look in B. Dalton software, you won't find it (or anything for the ST for that matter).

Note: Eight-bit version of Chessmaster varies, and has fewer options. Monochrome ST owners do not have the options of Changing peice or board colours, and have one standard chess set.

#### XM301 WARNING!!!

By Paul Alhart

(reprinted from the Pokey Press Feb.1987)

If you own an Atari XM301 modem, you may own an electronic "time bomb." After a rash of hardware failures last month, which included smoking a disk drive, and two printer interfaces, I found the cause of my problem to be my XM301. The modem worked fine, but it was killing off my sytem piece by piece.

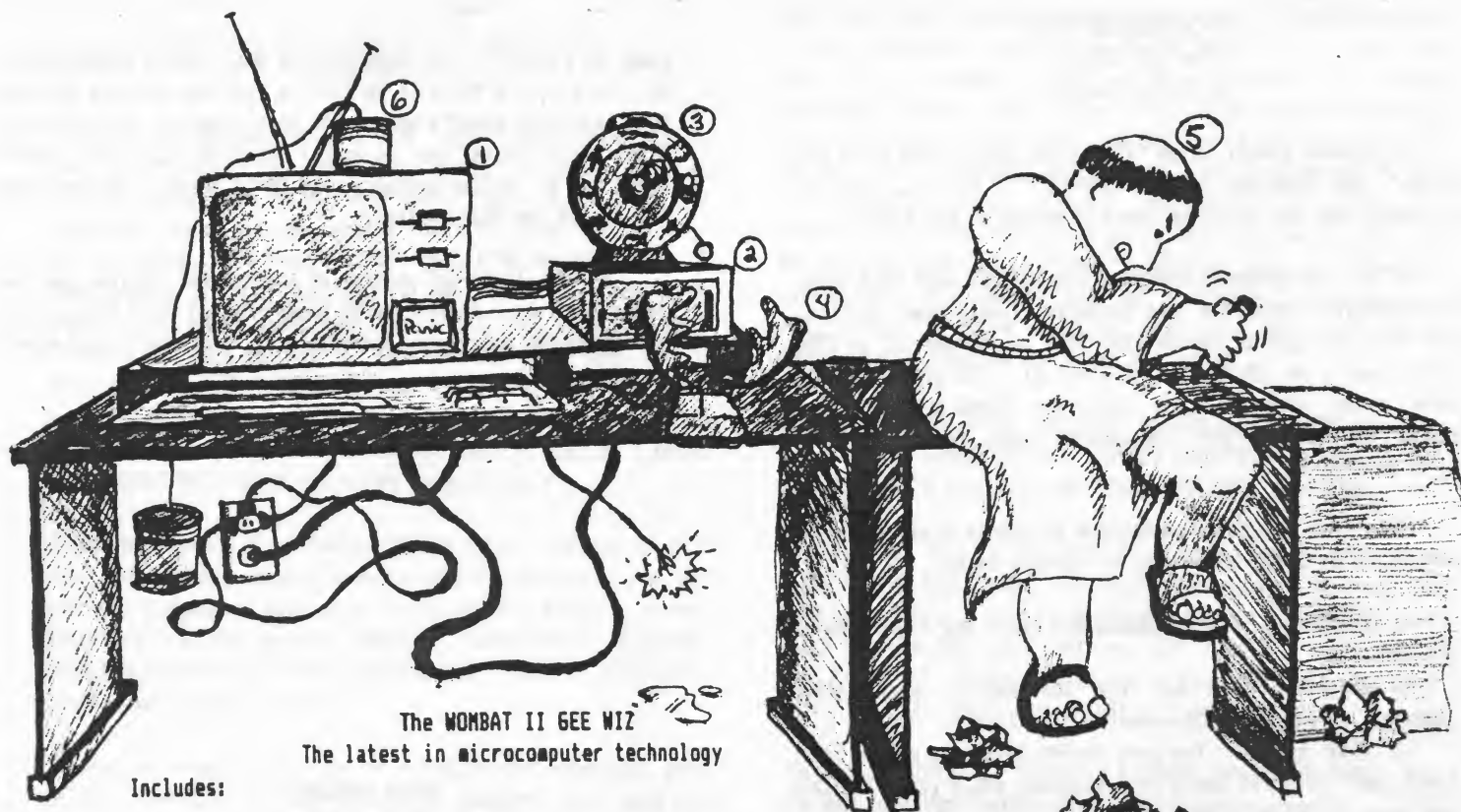
The reason has to do with the thirteen wires coming from the serial I/O plug, although only nine wires are actually used by the modem. The other four wires have about 1/8th inch of bare wire showing, and are just hanging around, unterminated, waiting to touch something they shouldn't. I have checked other XM301 modems and this condition existed in them too.

#### Here is what to do IMMEDIATELY!

With all the power OFF, remove the two screws from the back of the modem and lift off the plastic case. Inspect the wires where they enter the case. You will find that four of the wires are not connected to anything. They will be cut off close to the outer sheathing of the cable. If these four wires show any bare metal, cut it off. Be careful not to let the pieces fall off into the modem board.

Next, tape each wire individually, so that it cannot possibly touch any other part in the modem. Put the modem back in it's case, replace the screws and your done.

I have writen to Atari regarding this problem, but have not recieved a reply as of yet.



Includes:

1. 1750 compatibility. Advanced features include PANIC button.
2. 1 Kilobyte hard drive with papertape backup.
3. "Farmer Says" speech synthesis unit.
4. Two-button MOOSE.
5. Monk-Scribe VLG (very letter quality) printer. 4 CPM.
6. 9600th Baud Tin Can Modem. Campbell compatible.

COME IN FOR A DEMONSTRATION!  
KLUDGES COMPUTER AND STUFF



Twin Cities Atari Interest Group  
4309 Suncliff Road  
Eagan, MN 55122

Next TAIG Meeting:  
Sunday, April 26, 1987  
Taig 7:00 P.M.  
at the St. Louis Park Rec. Center  
5005 West 36th Street  
St. Louis Park, MN.